



Wyoming Game and Fish Department

Sheridan Region

December 2016 Newsletter



Devils Tower Check Station



Wildlife Management Coordinator Lynn Jahnke (on left) extracts lymph nodes from a deer at the Devils Tower Check Station while Gillette Wildlife Biologist Erika Peckham (middle) records data. The lymph nodes were sent to the Game & Fish Lab in Laramie to check for the presence of CWD.

The Devils Tower game check station was operated each weekend in November. Approximately 1,000 hunters stopped at the check station. Lymph nodes were collected from deer harvested in the Black Hills in 2016 to determine if they had chronic wasting disease (CWD). Just over 200 CWD samples from Deer Hunt Areas 1-6 have been submitted for analyses.



Young hunter that stopped by the Devils Tower check station proudly displays the mule deer buck he harvested.

Sheridan Region

Regional Wildlife Supervisor:

Craig Smith

Regional Fisheries Supervisor:

Paul Mavrakis

Office Managers:

Lori Roe

Kathy Boyles

Clerical Specialists:

Wendy Balkenbush

Stephanie Bomar

Game Wardens:

Dayton: Dustin Shorma

Sheridan: Bruce Scigliano

Buffalo: Jim Seeman

Kaycee: Cody Bish

N. Gillette: Brooke Weaver

S. Gillette: Dustin Kirsch

Moorcroft: J.D. Davis

Investigator: Daniel Beach

Damage Tech: Cody Schoonover

Public Information Specialist:

Bud Stewart

Wildlife Biologists :

Wildlife Management Coordinator:

Lynn Jahnke

Sheridan: Tim Thomas

Buffalo: Dan Thiele

Gillette: Erika Peckham

Terrestrial Habitat: Todd Caltrider

PLPW Program :

Coordinator: Troy Tobiasson

Technician: Dan Thompson

Fish Biologists:

Bill Bradshaw

Andrew Nikirk

Aquatic Habitat: Travis Cundy

Habitat and Access Coordinator:

Seth Roseberry

Aquatic Invasive Species:

Mike Locatelli

Story Fish Hatchery:

Superintendent: Steve Diekema

Senior Fish Culturist: Brad Hughes

Culturist: Jennifer Meineke

Sheridan Bird Farm:

Supervisor: Darrell Meineke

Biologist: Nate Brown

Technician: Reed Moore



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Heavy Wet Snow Causes Problems at Bird Farm

Wet heavy snow that falls with little or no wind is a major worry at Wyoming Game and Fish Department Bird Farms. The wet snow accumulates on the overhead chicken wire and collapses the pens holding the birds. A snow storm that started late on November 16th and continued into the 17th was just that kind of snowfall. Sheridan Bird Farm employees began cleaning snow off the 14 acres of chicken wire that covers the bird farm at 3:00 a.m. on November 17th. Other G&F employees and several volunteers started to show up at daylight to help with the snow removal. The “snow punching”, which involves hitting the chicken wire overhead with a wooden tool to knock the snow off, continued for 12 hours. The workers were able save the part of the facility that contained birds, but an area about an acre in size did collapse. The next couple days after the snow storm were spent repairing damaged areas of pens at the bird farm.



Sheridan Bird Farm Supervisor Darrell Meineke “punching snow” during the November 17th snow fall event (photo above).

Pheasants mill about under snow covered chicken wire.



Area at Sheridan Bird Farm where the wet snow caused the overhead wood supports and chicken wire to collapse.



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Youth Pheasant Hunt at Bud Love Wildlife Habitat Management

The Sheridan Region sponsored a Youth Pheasant Hunt at the Bud Love Wildlife Habitat Management Area on November 19th. Although a significant snow event just prior to the hunt made for difficult hunting, most hunters harvested birds or had the opportunity to harvest a bird. Approximately 12 young hunters participated in the event. The excitement and smiles on the faces of the youth hunters while they were telling Game and Fish employees their hunting stories showed they had a fun and enjoyable day.



A youth hunter and his proud sister display the pheasants the hunter bagged during the Youth Pheasant Hunt at the Bud Love Wildlife Habitat Management Area.



A youth hunter (middle), accompanied by his father (at left) and grandfather (at right), took part in the Youth Pheasant Hunt at the Bud Love Wildlife Habitat Management Area.

Story Hatchery Stocks Brood Cull Brook and Golden Trout



Sheridan Region Fish Management Supervisor Paul Mavrakis dumps a net load of fish into Mavrakis Pond. The pond is named in honor of Sam Mavrakis, Paul's uncle.

Story Fish Hatchery stocked 130 golden trout that averaged 14 inches and 180 brook trout that averaged 15 inches into Mavrakis Pond in Sheridan during November. The fish were retired brood stock fish that were no longer needed at the hatchery. The golden trout were five years old and had produced eggs as three-, four- and five-year-old fish. The brook trout were four years old and had produced eggs as three- and four-year-old fish. Younger age classes of both species are being reared at Story to produce eggs in the future.



Sheridan Region Fish Management Supervisor Paul Mavrakis (on truck) pulls open the door that drains the tanks as Story Fish Hatchery Superintendent Steve Diekema directs the flow of water and fish into Mavrakis Pond.



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Hanover Diversion Modified to Improve Fish Passage



Hanover Diversion before the project.



Hanover Diversion after the project.

To improve fish passage through the Hanover Diversion on the Tongue River, the existing cross vane structure was converted to a roughened ramp. Trout and mountain whitefish will find their way over the roughened ramp much more readily than the previous boulder cross vane structure. Additional work is planned to retrofit the check board sluiceway with a smaller-sized lift gate to improve the function of the irrigation diversion and long-term stability of the ramped vane. Cooperators on this project include the Sheridan County Conservation District, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Wyoming Wildlife Natural Resources Trust, the Hanover/Oz Ditch Company and the Wyoming Game and Fish Department.

They Made a Mistake and Turned Themselves In



Buffalo Game Warden Jim Seeman reports that during this hunting season he has had 19 cases of people taking the wrong sex of big game and turning themselves in. Most of the cases have been hunters taking yearling white-tailed or pronghorn bucks on a doe/fawn license. Seeman indicates it is satisfying to see hunters doing the responsible thing and turning themselves in when they realize they have taken an animal of the wrong sex.

Wyoming Game and Fish Regulations define an "antlered" animal as "a deer, elk or moose that has visible antler growth plainly protruding from the skull".